

ELEMENTS OF RHYTHM GUITAR

The guitar may be used to play melody, rhythm or both at the same time. To play rhythm guitar, the left hand is placed to form a **CHORD** and the right hand **STRUMS**.

CHORD: two or more notes sounded at the same time

STRUM: playing quickly through several strings with the right thumb or a pick

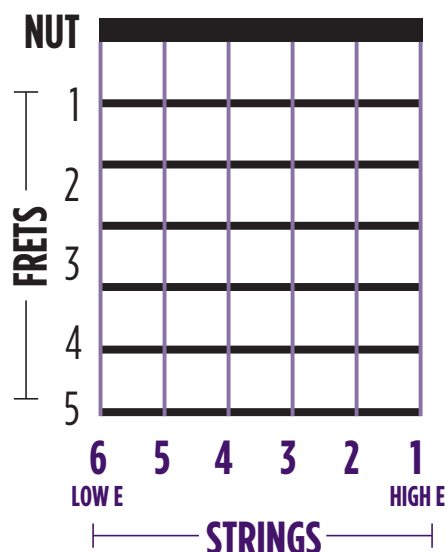
CHORD DIAGRAM: shows finger positions used to play a given chord

MEMORIZE THE FINGER NUMBERS
OF YOUR LEFT HAND



UNDERSTANDING THE CHORD DIAGRAM

The chord diagram is a "picture" of the upper part of the guitar neck. When finger numbers are placed upon it, the diagram tells you how to place the left hand fingers to form a given chord.



1. Locate the labeled parts of the diagram: *nut*, *frets 1-5* and *strings*.
2. Place the upper neck of your guitar on top of these words, right next to the chord diagram.
3. Study the relationship between the diagram and the instrument.

CHANGING CHORDS

CHORD PROGRESSION: a series of chords

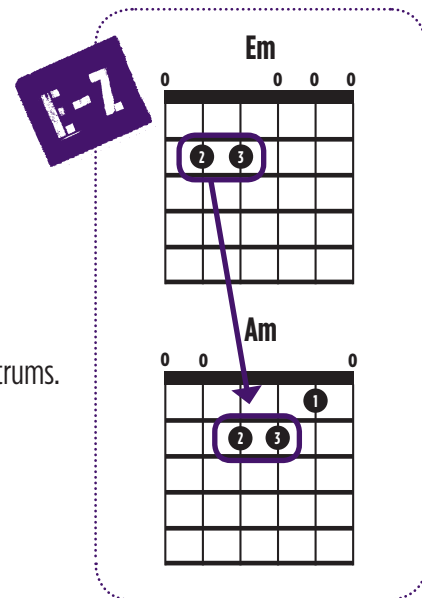
RELATIVE FINGER: a finger which is **related by position** in both chords involved in a chord change

RHYTHM GUITAR: strumming chord progressions to provide a rhythmic/harmonic accompaniment to a melody

Nearly all music involves chord progressions. As you learn to move from one chord to another, there are often relationships in the left hand fingers which can make the change easy. In the *Am* to *Em* change, for example, fingers 2 and 3 are in the same **relative position** in both chords. To change easily, move both fingers at the same time.

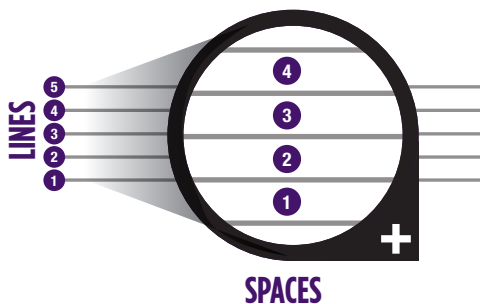
The E-Z MOVER diagram at the right illustrates the **relative fingers** for this change.

PRACTICE: *Am* - *Em*, playing 8 strums for each chord. Then try it with 4 strums, then 2 strums.

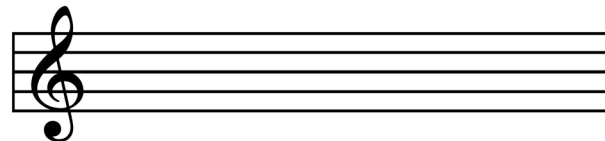


READING THE RHYTHM GUITAR PART IN MUSIC

Guitar music is written on a **STAFF**, which has 5 lines and 4 spaces.



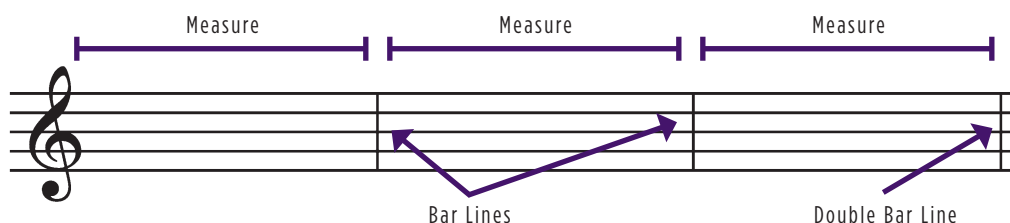
At the beginning of each staff of guitar music you will see the **TREBLE (G) CLEF**.



ACTION WRITER

Draw three more treble clefs on the staff above.

Each line of music has vertical lines, known as **BAR LINES**, which divide the music into **MEASURES** (or **BARS**). The **DOUBLE BAR LINE** indicates the end of the music.



Now play the lines from page 16 using notation.

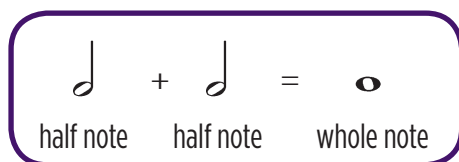
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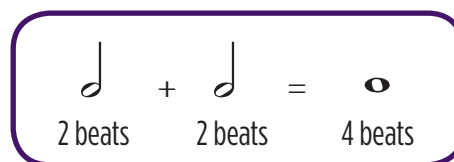
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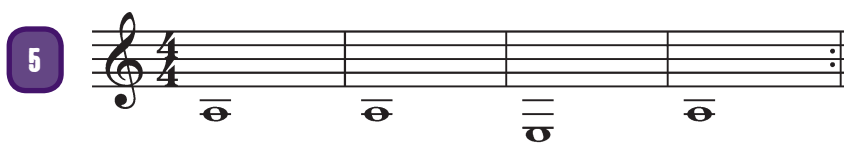
4 

THE WHOLE NOTE


half note + half note = whole note


2 beats + 2 beats = 4 beats

Play the whole note bass line below. Say the note names as you play. Then play while counting aloud.

5 
(1-2-3-4)

Add this bass line to *The Ghost of Tom* on p. 19. Take turns playing bass and rhythm guitar. Rhythm players should decide whether to use the quarter or half note strum.

DO WORK SHEET 4.

THE EIGHTH NOTE

The single eighth note has a flag.

Two or more eighth notes may be connected by a beam.

$\text{1 eighth note} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ BEAT}$

$\frac{1}{2} \text{ beat} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ beat} = 1 \text{ beat}$

$\text{1 eighth note} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ BEAT}$

To count music containing eighth notes, simply say "and" after each number. As you play the examples below, count aloud. The numbers and "ands" have been inserted

ACTION WRITER Write eighth notes, strum marks and counting in the empty measures below.

EXAMPLE 3

In example 4, rests have been inserted to create the reggae sound. **DAMP THEM.** The usual note head has been replaced by an "x". This is yet another way to write the rhythm part. Play measure 1 several times; when smooth and correct, play the line as written.

EXAMPLE 4

When the strums and silence are CLEARLY HEARD, apply the reggae pattern above to the *Ghost of Tom* arrangement on page 11. Then learn the rhythm and bass parts of *Reggae Feet*.

DO WORK SHEET 6.